

What is claimed is:

1. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide having a core layer and a cladding layer for covering the core layer,

5           wherein a silicon nitride film serving as the core layer is formed by plasmanizing a gas mixture containing methylsilane and at least any one of nitrogen ( $N_2$ ) or ammonia ( $NH_3$ ) to react.

10          2. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide, according to claim 1, wherein the gas mixture contains at least any one of He or Ar.

15          3. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide, according to claim 1, wherein the methylsilane is any one of monomethylsilane ( $SiH_3(CH_3)$ ), dimethylsilane ( $SiH_2(CH_3)_2$ ), trimethylsilane ( $SiH(CH_3)_3$ ), or 20 tetramethylsilane ( $Si(CH_3)_4$ ).

20          4. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide, according to claim 1, wherein the cladding layer is brought into contact with a dinitrogen monoxide ( $N_2O$ ) or nitrogen ( $N_2$ ) plasma.

25          5. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide having a core layer and a cladding layer for covering the core layer,

              wherein a silicon oxy-nitride film serving as the core layer or the cladding layer is formed by plasmanizing a gas mixture containing any one of methylsilane, alkyl compound having a siloxane bond, or

alkyl compound having an alkoxy bond, dinitrogen monoxide ( $N_2O$ ), and at least any one of the nitrogen ( $N_2$ ) or the ammonia ( $NH_3$ ) to react.

5       6. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide, according to claim 5, wherein a refractive index of the silicon oxy-nitride film is adjusted by controlling a flow rate of dinitrogen monoxide ( $N_2O$ ), or nitrogen ( $N_2$ ) or ammonia ( $NH_3$ ).

10      7. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide, according to claim 5, wherein the gas mixture contains oxygen ( $O_2$ ).

8. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide, according to claim 5, wherein the gas mixture contains at least any one of He or Ar.

15      9. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide, according to claim 5, wherein the methylsilane is any one of monomethylsilane ( $SiH_3(CH_3)$ ), dimethylsilane ( $SiH_2(CH_3)_2$ ), trimethylsilane ( $SiH(CH_3)_3$ ), or tetramethylsilane ( $Si(CH_3)_4$ ).

20      10. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide, according to claim 5, wherein the alkyl compound having the siloxane bond is any one of hexamethyldisiloxane (HMDSO:  $(CH_3)_3Si-O-Si(CH_3)_3$ ), octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane (OMCTS), or octamethyltrisiloxane (OMTS).

25      11. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide, according to claim 5, wherein the alkyl compound having the alkoxy bond is any one of dimethyldimethoxysilane

( $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2(\text{OCH}_3)_2$ ), dimethyldiethoxysilane ( $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2$ ), or trimethoxysilane (TMS:  $\text{SiH}(\text{OCH}_3)_3$ ).

12. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide, according to claim 5, wherein the cladding layer is  
5 brought into contact with a dinitrogen monoxide ( $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ) or nitrogen ( $\text{N}_2$ ) plasma.

13. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide having a core layer and a cladding layer for covering the core layer,

10 wherein a silicon oxide film serving as the cladding layer is formed by plasmanizing a gas mixture containing methylsilane and dinitrogen monoxide ( $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ) to react.

14. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide, according to claim 13, wherein a flow rate of dinitrogen monoxide ( $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ) is 20 times or more a flow rate of methylsilane.  
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15. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide, according to claim 13, wherein the gas mixture contains oxygen ( $\text{O}_2$ ).

20 16. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide, according to claim 13, wherein the cladding layer is brought into contact with a dinitrogen monoxide ( $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ) or nitrogen ( $\text{N}_2$ ) plasma.

25 17. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide having a core layer and a cladding layer for covering the core layer, comprising the steps of:

forming the core layer by the optical waveguide

manufacturing method set forth in claim 1; and

forming a silicon oxide film as the cladding layer by plasmanizing a gas mixture containing methylsilane and dinitrogen monoxide ( $N_2O$ ) to react.

5       18. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide having a core layer through which a light is propagated mainly and a cladding layer for covering the core layer, comprising the steps of:

10      forming the core layer by the optical waveguide manufacturing method set forth in claim 1; and

15      forming a silicon oxide film as the cladding layer by plasmanizing a gas mixture containing any one of methylsilane, alkyl compound having a siloxane bond, or alkyl compound having an alkoxy bond, dinitrogen monoxide ( $N_2O$ ), and at least any one of nitrogen ( $N_2$ ) or ammonia ( $NH_3$ ) to react.

19. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide having a core layer and a cladding layer for covering the core layer, comprising the steps of:

20      forming the core layer by the optical waveguide manufacturing method set forth in claim 5; and

        forming a silicon oxide film as the cladding layer by plasmanizing a gas mixture containing methylsilane and dinitrogen monoxide ( $N_2O$ ) to react.

25      20. A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide having a core layer through which a light is propagated mainly and a cladding layer for covering the core layer,

comprising the steps of:

forming the core layer by the optical waveguide manufacturing method set forth in claim 5; and

5 forming a silicon oxide film as the cladding layer by plasmanizing a gas mixture containing any one of methylsilane, alkyl compound having a siloxane bond, or alkyl compound having an alkoxy bond, dinitrogen monoxide ( $N_2O$ ), and at least any one of nitrogen ( $N_2$ ) or ammonia ( $NH_3$ ) to react.

10 21. An optical waveguide formed by a method of manufacturing an optical waveguide set forth in claim 17.

22. An optical waveguide formed by a method of manufacturing an optical waveguide set forth in claim 18.

15 23. An optical waveguide formed by a method of manufacturing an optical waveguide set forth in claim 19.

24. An optical waveguide formed by a method of manufacturing an optical waveguide set forth in claim 20.